

Re: FW: "The Corps continues to provide one-on-one help to farmers applying for permits to convert wetland to cropland ..."

Thursday, June 18, 2015 2:54 PM

Subject	Re: FW: "The Corps continues to provide one-on-one help to farmers applying for permits to convert wetland to cropland ..."
From	Crea Lintilhac
To	Berry, Tom (Leahy); 'james@mychamplain.net'; 'chuck.ross@state.vt.us'; 'David.Mears@state.vt.us'; Perkins, Stephen; Perkins, Eric; 'Eric.Smeltzer@state.vt.us'
Cc	kari.dolan@state.vt.us; 'Alarrapino@clf.org'
Sent	Wednesday, December 11, 2013 1:54 PM

Tom,

Thank you for taking the time to comment. I appreciate your broader perspective on the issues of the Army Corp's partnership with Vermont farmers as they consider wetland conversion on their farmland. I only hope that the Corp has climate change and needed flood resilience practices in mind as a priority. Crea

On 12/11/13 10:56 AM, Berry, Tom (Leahy) wrote:

I have a different take on this. Any federal agency that oversees a permit process, should provide one on one assistance to constituents who are subject to that process.

The army corps is given this jurisdiction under the clean water act, and the more direct contact that they have with constituents helping them understand the law, the better.

Having found myself between the Corps and constituents seeking to alter wetlands dozens of times over the past 15 years I can say that the Corps in VT has been consistent, and quite strict as they enforce the clean water act and protect wetlands. When they meet with applicants the answer seems most often to be "no".

The real problem coming our way is the push to adopt provisions in the House passed farm bill that would essentially repeal the "sodbuster, swampbuster" provisions and open the door to wholesale agricultural wetland conversion across the country. Senator Leahy is fighting to keep those restrictions in place.

From: Crea Lintilhac [<mailto:crealint@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 09:30 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: james@mychamplain.net <james@mychamplain.net>; Chuck Ross <Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us>; David Mears <david.mears@state.vt.us>; 'Stephen Perkins' <perkins.stephen@epa.gov>; 'Perkins, Eric' <perkins.eric@epa.gov>; 'Smeltzer, Eric' <Eric.Smeltzer@state.vt.us>

Cc: Berry, Tom (Leahy); Dolan, Kari <Kari.Dolan@state.vt.us>; 'Anthony Iarrapino' <Alarrapino@clf.org>

Subject: Re: FW: "The Corps continues to provide one-on-one help to farmers applying for permits to convert wetland to cropland ..."

Hi all,

With the NRCS working to restore wetlands and the Ecosystem Restoration Program working to do the same, the work of the Army Corps work seems counter to these efforts, time and money spent on steambank restoration and flood resilience work. As a philanthropic partner, I have to be informed.

I visited some Franklin County Farms with Kate Webb, Bob Krebs, and Paul Madden last year. A farmer had a large stash of what looked like plastic tiles that he was installing to move water from his property that abutted the Rock River. This is a concern that I've spoken to Eric Smeltzer about and have read myself that tiles may reduce surface runoff depending on soil characteristics. However, it's clear to me that much of the Champlain Basin is only arable because of the underground tiles and much of the shoreline would be cattails without this drainage.

Comments?

Crea

On 12/11/13 9:16 AM, James Ehlers wrote:

From: James Ehlers [<mailto:james@mychamplain.net>]
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 4:30 PM
To: 'Stephen Perkins'; 'Perkins, Eric'; Lynne Hamjian; 'Voorhees, Jeanne'
Cc: Curt Spalding; David Mears; Dolan, Kari; ckilian@clf.org; AIarrapino@clf.org; ross@mychamplain.net; scientist@mychamplain.net; 'Smeltzer, Eric'; rhartwell@leg.state.vt.us; 'David Deen'; tklein@leg.state.vt.us; Virginia Lyons; Claire; Kate Webb; Bob Krebs
Subject: "The Corps continues to provide one-on-one help to farmers applying for permits to convert wetland to cropland ..."

Anyone else find this interesting?

"AGRICULTURAL CONVERSIONS – The Corps continues to provide one-on-one help to farmers applying for permits to convert wetland to cropland and is available for group outreach/educational meetings to assist the Vermont farming community in understanding the permit process."

-----Original Message-----

From: Dugan, Timothy J NAE [<mailto:Timothy.J.Dugan@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 9:38 AM
To: Dugan, Timothy J NAE
Subject: Update Report for Vermont (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Attached is the most current Corps of Engineers quarterly Update Report for Vermont. It can be accessed on the NAE website at:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Media/StateUpdateReports.aspx>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

All the best,

James Ehlers

Executive Director

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